

WASH  
DAILY NEWS  
12/20/61

## 'Get Him, Get Him'

The gravest crime in Cuba is wanting freedom.

The same night I was barred from reporting there, I witnessed a young Cuban's attempt to flee the tormented country by swimming to a small boat crowded with refugees as it was leaving Camarioca. The boat was moving too rapidly. He did not make it.

Patrol boats and an army truck sped after the swimmer. Troops ashore snarled with the ferocity of rabid animals: "Get him, get him."

The youth clambered out of the water and then feverishly clawed his way over a mud embankment. I don't know if he was ever captured, but all night I heard rifle shots crackle across the bay as the soldiers relentlessly hunted their prey.

The chill drama also was watched in tortured silence by 15 refugee women and children. They were huddled together in an 18-foot outboard, ready to depart for the U. S.

The women feared that one gesture or word of encouragement for the youth would end forever their own chances of leaving.